

CASTLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT. 1918.

To

The Chairman & Members of the
CASTLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT showing a summary of the work of my Department for the year ending DECEMBER 31st. 1918.

During this, the last year of the Great War, the shortage of skilled workmen & also materials necessary for the carrying out of Building & Sanitary Work, become more acute than had been experienced in previous years. Unavoidable arrears of Housing Repairs & Building operations have now to be overtaken at an enormously advanced cost.
HOUSING.

As your Housing Inspector I must again remind you of, what you already know, the great shortage of Houses in the District. Many small Houses are occupied by two or more families under conditions which must be detrimental to the health of the occupants. Only one new House was certified for habitation during the year

RETURN FOR 1918.

Number of Houses inspected under Regulations	75
Do found Unfit.	43
Do made fit.	19
Do closed & demolished for Munition Works Extension.	2.
To New Houses Certified for Habitation	1.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Cases notified including Measles & Tuberculosis. 131.

Disinfection by means of spraying & fumigation was freely carried out & Disinfecting Fluid distributed to householders.

During the Influenza Epidemic particular attention was paid to the disinfection of Schools & Theatres. The various School Premises with their contents were thoroughly sprayed during each period of closure. Now that the War is over it is to be hoped that the Education Authority will find it possible to have all the Schools thoroughly cleansed & distempered....

(2).

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health the Managers of the various Theatres undertook to ventilate & spray their premises during the interval between Entertainments & from observations made, it is believed that the undertaking was generally fulfilled

NIGHT SCAVENGING.

The continued call for men by the Military Authorities coupled with the shortage of Horses & Railway Wagons rendered the maintenance of Scavenging in any degree of efficiency, a matter of extreme difficulty. There was throughout the year a fairly constant demand for Nightsoil by Farmers for use as a fertilizer.

Labour scarcity & sickness accounted for much time being lost by the workmen with consequent scavenging arrears. During the year there were 440 shifts lost (not including holidays) equal to 8.46 shifts per week. The arrears of Night Scavenging have now I am happy to say been entirely overtaken..

RETURN FOR 1918.

Loads Removed.	8995.
Ashpit Emptyings.	7717.

Some 4508 tons of Nightsoil were disposed of to Farmers by Rail, while large quantities were carted to fields about the District. One of the Drivers was prosecuted under the Defence of the Realm Regulations for failing to exhibit the Lights required by the ~~Lightning~~ Highway Order. A Fine of 10/- was imposed which was afterwards repaid by the Council.

SANITARY ALTERATIONS.

For reasons already mentioned little was done in this branch during the year. Efforts were chiefly directed to keeping existing Sanitary Appliances in working order.

RETURN FOR 1918.

Privies converted to Water Closets.	6.
Ashpits (Wet) abolished.	3.
Water Closets (additional) provided to existing buildings.	2.
Water Closets provided to New Buildings.	I.
Slop Closets converted to Water Closets.	I.
Drains, Water Closets &c, cleansed, repaired or re-constructed.	181.

(2).

FOOD INSPECTION.

Very considerable attention was paid to this important side of the work during the year. This was rendered all the more necessary by the fact that large quantities of Imported Meat were sent into the Town by the Ministry of Food, some of which had undergone serious deterioration from long or improper storage & required careful examination. In respect of Tuberculous Meat the Ministry of Food has, by inaugurating a Scheme of Compensation, rendered a Public Service which deserves to be more widely known. As an additional safeguard to the Public Health, it is to be hoped that the Scheme will be placed upon a permanent basis & so remove the incentive to unscrupulous butchers to conceal Diseased Meat. There were 38 Certificates of unfitness & surrender issued. A total weight of 3.Tons 10 $\frac{1}{2}$.Cwts. of Meat was found to be UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD, all (except 88 lbs. of Mutton) consisting of Imported or English Beef. Of that total 58.Cwts (including six entire carcases) were found to be Unfit owing to the presence of Tubercular Disease. The remaining 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.Cwts which consisted of Imported (Frozen) Meat, were unfit on grounds of putrefaction or emaciation.... Some 2 $\frac{1}{4}$.Cwts. of Ham & Bacon were also found to be unfit for Food on grounds of putrefaction in varying stages.

Other miscellaneous Foodstuffs condemned were as follows :-

Canned Milk.	240.lbs.
Canned Meat.	53. "
Grapes.	72 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Yeast.	37 $\frac{1}{2}$.baskets.

Of Butter, 76 lbs. were found to be unsaleable & passed for cooking purposes only.... The greater portion of the above condemned Foodstuffs were converted & utilized for the production of Tallow, Animal Feeding-stuffs & Fertilizers &c.

In one case of Diseased Meat found deposited in a place for the purpose of sale. Legal Proceedings were instituted against the Occupier of the Premises & the Owner of the Meat resulting in both being convicted & fined £20 & £40 respectively. In another case where a Milch Cow was found to have been suffering from generalized Tuberculosis, a sample of Milk was drawn from the udder after slaughter & with the concurrence of the Medical Officer of Health, submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Wakefield for bacteriological examination.

(4).

The examination shewed the presence of pus cells, but no tubercle bacilli were found. A guinea pig was inoculated with the deposit obtained after centrifuging the specimen of Milk & on being killed some 24 days after inoculation, the guinea pig was found to be tuberculous. The result of the experiment is not without significance..

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number on Register.	I6.
Nuisances found:-Want of Limewashing.	4.
Do. Non-removal of Offal.	8.
Do. Defective Paving &c.	2.

All are subject to ANNUAL LICENSE.

One NEW LICENSE was granted for War period only.

MILK SUPPLY.

Cow Keepers or Purveyors of Milk on Register.	I9.
Cow Sheds in District.	2.
Nuisances found:-Want of Limewashing.	I.
Do. Defective Drainage.	I.
One Cow Shed is structurally unsatisfactory. There was a considerable scarcity of Milk experienced during the latter part of the year believed to have been due to the shortage of suitable feeding-stuffs.	

SALE OF FOOD & DRUGS ACTS.

Milk samples taken by arrangement with W.R. County Council.	9.
Number of samples found adulterated.	3.
OTHER SAMPLES..(FOOD CONTROL).	Beer. 3.
Beer..One sample was found to be below the gravity required by the Food Controller's Order.	
Barley Flour..Found to be genuine.	I.

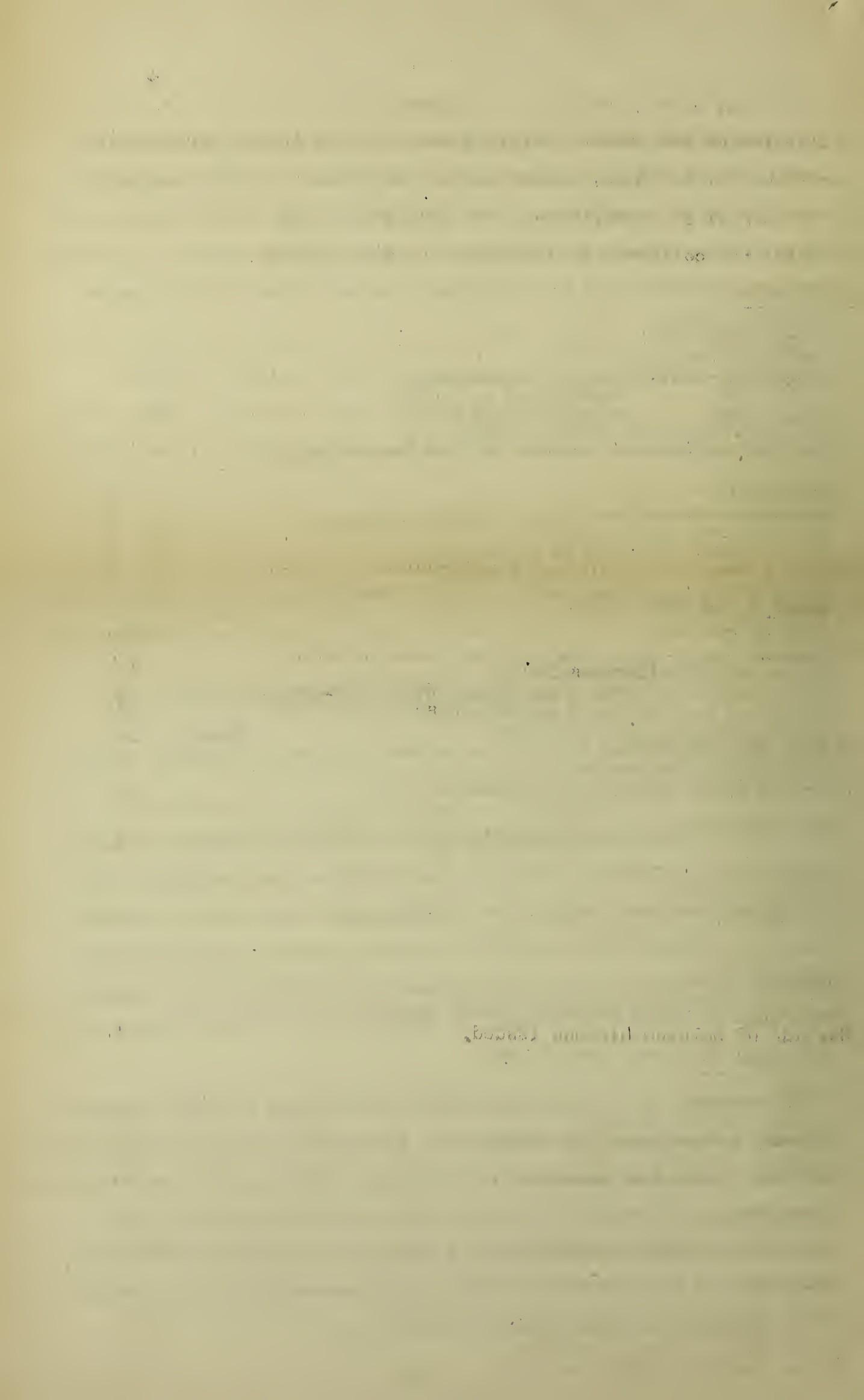
AIR POLLUTION.

Numerous complaints were received of serious nuisance caused by the discharge from Chemical Works of noxious gases into the atmosphere. Four samples of air-washings were taken at various times & extending over periods of several hours. On analysis, Sulphur Dioxide was found to have been present in the air, but the results were not considered to be such as would justify further proceedings.

SALVAGE.

In response to the National Appeal for Salvage of waste products forming raw material for Munitions & Industrial purposes, the collection of Waste Paper was commenced in April. 1918. Later the Town was circularized calling attention to the serious need for salvage of such materials as Paper, sacking, bones & food refuse. Sales of Waste Paper collected by the Council's Workmen up to December. 31st. 1918 realized £83-1-10. Sale of Cullet realized £1-7-0.....

(4).



The National Salvage Council having made an urgent appeal for the collection of Nut Shells & Fruit Stones for use in the manufacture of Gas Masks for the Army, a collection was arranged by the kind assistance of the School Teachers, through the Children. Some 2½.Cwts. of the material was collected & dispatched for this purpose.

SHOPS ACTS.

The Acts are generally well observed as regards Closing of Shops & weekly Half-Holidays. The enforcement of restrictions under the D.O.R.A. appears to have resulted in a general desire for Early Closing & there seems to be no attempt to contravene the Closing (Evening) Orders
Contraventions found:-

Notices not exhibited.	Weekly Half-Holiday.	2.
Do.	Assistants Half-Holiday.	I.
Do.	Young Persons.	I.
Bakers & Confectioners.	(Weekly Half-Holiday) Order.	I.

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACTS.

Number on Register.	I48.
Nuisances found:-Defective Sanitary Accommodation.	I4.
Premises Dirty.	II.
Premises insufficiently Ventilated.	2.
Register of Lime Washing not kept.	I.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

On Register to accommodate 190. persons.	4.
Contraventions found:-Want of Lime Washing	3.
Neglect to cleanse floors & receptacles.	2.
Neglect to Ventilate Rooms.	2.
Want of Towels.	I.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

On Register. (I.Gut Scraper & I Tripe Dresser.)	2.
No Contraventions found...	

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Petrol Storage Licenses issued.	6.
including one under "Bowser" Patent System,	
Carbide of Calcium License issued.	I.
No Contraventions found.	

NOTICES ISSUED.

Informal Notices issued.	355.
Informal Notices complied with.	276.
Statutory Notices issued.	10.
Statutory Notices complied with.	10.

INSPECTIONS.

Number made during the year.	2975.
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NUISANCES.

Number found during the year.	878.
Number carried over from 1917.	231.
Number abated during the year.	668.
Number carried forward to 1919.	441.

(6).

GENERAL.

Nuisances found consisted generally of Defective Roofs, Dampness, Over-crowding & Dirt, & Defective Sanitary Arrangements.

Now that men & material are becoming available, it is hoped that many overdue Sanitary Works will be carried out at an early date.

The provision of suitable assistance would greatly facilitate the work of the Department,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours Faithfully,

T.E. Birtwistle

Sanitary Inspector.

Town Hall,

Castleford.

June 4th. 1919.....

CASTLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1918...

To

The Chairman & Members of the

CASTLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health of your District for the year ending December 31st. 1919.

Now that the Great War is apparently over you will naturally look back to the condition of your Town in 1914, which although not perfect, was shewing by alterations & work going on, that your Council were quite alive, at that date to many Nuisances which required remedying. After these 4½ years of turmoil & absolute inability to help yourselves from allowing the condition of the Town to degenerate you are now faced with an overwhelming amount of URGENT necessary Sanitary Work which I would place under the following heads:-

1. Privy Conversions.

2. House Shortage.

3. Streets.

4. Open Spaces.

The Privy Conversions I am putting first as these conveniences have been a veritable bug-bear to us & will remain so until every one is converted under the Water Carriage System. The emptying of these places at times gets beyond the power of the workers & so leads to an abominable state of the ash pits, & places the occupants of those houses where the ash pits are too close to the house doors, in a very unhealthy position owing to (1) The bad smells, (2). The blowing about of the contents. (3). The continuous passage of Flies to & from the place of their development carrying about filth with them & so being a means of spreading Disease & (4). At times the want of better cleaning up after the emptyings.

(I).

(2).

HOUSE SHORTAGE.

This is also a real danger & has now got very acute & is I am well aware,taking up a lot of time & consideration of your Council.

The few houses you will be able to put up within the Castleford area will only go a very short way indeed towards relieving the present congestion,& unless you are going to build upon Land outside your Authority,I see nothing but that the surrounding Collieries,or Local Authorities,should be left to put up Houses for their own Workers or your area should be so enlarged,that your responsibility should include the finding of Houses &c for those employed at the various surrounding Works.This latter I feel is the only proper & satisfactory way for your Council to proceed.I consider you should at once apply to the proper Authority for another Enquiry,so as to be able to incorporate the Districts immediately surrounding Castleford.

STREETS.

It is little or no use in this Report my specifying particular Streets,which in winter,resemble a marsh,nor is it any good specifying Streets particular Streets of Privies for Conversions as the work under both these headings should be attacked generally from one end of your District to the other,of course had your Council in the past insisted upon Streets being properly completed when the houses were built,your Town would have been in a very different condition to-day; therefore in the future I trust your Council will have the Streets made perfect before allowing the Houses to become occupied...

OPEN SPACES & PLAY GROUNDS FOR CHILDREN.

These should be the very lungs of your Town & will be a very real help in building up the future generations,I do not wish these spaces to be kept to look pretty but I want to see them covered with Children playing in whatever way they like best,provided they do not become a d/a danger to one another,& then,& then alone shall I consider your Council have done a Christian duty for those youngsters who live under such crowded conditions.I again urge you to buy,at whatever cost,some of the few Plots of Land in your midst that are still left unbuilt upon.

(2).

HEALTH VISITOR'S WORK.

Unfortunately for our comfort, we had to remove our Town Centre back to Sagar Street, where part of the Old Council Buildings were allotted for our use. These now have become far too small for our requirements & we should have the whole of the Ground Floor to carry on with any degree of quietude & order. This would allow one good Room for your Health Visitor & a Play Room for the young Children. When we consider that for nearly ten weeks the Centre was closed owing to the Influenza Epidemic, I am bound to wonder how Nurse Robertson is able to give satisfactory attendance to such numbers as have passed through her hands & it can only have been rendered possible by the very able & willing help of a Committee of Mothers which has been entirely organised by your Health Visitor whose energy & keenness in her work is beyond praise. I would like to remind the Council that in the death of Sister Annie Ensor (a Wesleyan Worker) we lost a real friend & one who made herself welcome to all of us at Duke Street by her quiet, unobtrusive & gentle manner. The following Tables shew the amount of work done by your Health Visitor

VISITS MADE.

First Visits.	609.
Re-visits.	2809.
Measles visited.	48.
First Ante-natal Visits.	65.
Re-visits Do.	85.
Miscellaneous Do.	31.
House to House Visits.	20.
 TOTAL.	 3467.

Reports to Medical Officer of Health.	18.
Do Sanitary Inspector.	34.

SAGAR STREET INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Babies Attendances.	1016.
Mothers Do.	2472.
Children under 5 years Attendances.	721.
Number of Clinics held.	37.
Ante-natal Consultations.	120.
Lectures given.	36.

DUKE STREET INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Babies Attendances.	360.
Mothers Do.	578.
Children under 5 years. Attendances.	181.
Clinics held.	35.
Ante-natal Consultations.	37.
TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT BOTH CLINICS:-	
Babies.	1376.
Mothers.	3052.
Children.	902.

GRAND TOTAL. 5330.

is Medical Attendance appreciated but many cases are at once advised to consult their family Doctor & so get troubles corrected long before otherwise they would have thought of seeing their Doctor themselves,.If you look at our Infantile Mortality I feel that you may fairly claim some praise for the improvement shewn & there can be no doubt that advice as to feeding the Infants has been of great benefit.

POPULATION.

The "Death Rate Population" excludes all non-civilian Males whether serving at home or abroad.This the Registrar General considers necessary for the purpose of Local Death-Rates because it has proved impossible to transfer the Deaths of non-civilians to their areas of residence or to deal in any other satisfactory manner with the Local Mortality of this element in the population.For estimating the Death Rate the population is taken at 22954.The Birth rate (& Marriage Rate) Population on the other hand is intended to include all the elements of the Population contributing to the Birth & Marriage Rates.It consists therefore of the Death Rate of Civilian Population plus all non-civilians enlisted from this Country whether serving at home or abroad.The non-civilian element has been distributed over all the Districts in the Country in proportion to their estimated civilian population & has been estimated for us at 25719.

BIRTHS & BIRTH RATE.

There were 607 Births registered in your District viz:- 313 Males & 294 Females which gives an annual Birth Rate of 23.21 per 1000 of these 37 were illegitimate viz:- 21 Males & 16 Females.Last year there were 621 Births registeredviz:- 320 Males & 301 Females giving a Birth Rate of 22.9 per 1000.The Birth Rate for the whole of England & Wales is 17.7 per 1000 total population.

DEATHS & DEATH RATE.

There were 381 Deaths registered in your District viz:- 201 Males & 180 Females giving an Annual Death Rate of 16.7 per 1000 population in addition there 55 inwardly transferred Deaths from various Institutions which makes a corrected total of 18.9 per 1000. Last year there were 385 Deaths registered giving an Annual Death Rate of 15.4 per 1000 The Death Rate for England & Wales is 17.6 per 1000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Out of 381 (381) Deaths registered in your District 57 were notified to me as being under one year old which gives an Infantile Mortality of 93.9 per 1000 Births. Last year it was 119.1 per 1000 Births. In 1913 it was 186 per 1000, in 1915 it was 165 per 1000. Taking the whole of England & Wales the Rate is 97 per 1000 Births while in 148 smaller Towns (census populations 20,000 + 50,000) it stands at 94. It will be a big surprise, especially to many who are not able to see any good in our Colliery Town to find that Castleford's Infantile Mortality is now lower than that of any Town I am able to shew. Having reached this position, we trust that with the many Sanitary Improvements which should at once be taken in hand we shall each year see this Mortality decline. May we not claim that we have done something towards shewing such a result & this something I should like partially to claim to be our "Welfare Centre" where so many have been ably advised by Nurse Robertson in regard to the feeding & clothing of & general attention to their Babies... The various causes of Infantile Deaths under one year of age was as follows:-

Tubercular Diseases.	I.
Convulsions.	3.
Bronchitis.	2.
Pneumonias.	9.
Diarrhoea & Enteritis.	III.
Atelectasis.	I.
Congenital Malformation.	I.
Premature Births.	14.
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus.	8.
Other Causes.	5.
Measles.	I.
Influenza.	I. TOTAL. 57.

DEATHS DUE TO ZYMIC DISEASES.

Small Pox.	0.
Enteric Fever.	3.
Scarlet Fever.	0.
Diphtheria & Membraneous Croup.	I.
Whooping Cough.	I.
Diarhoea & Enteritis. (under 2 years).	14.
Measles.	I.

TOTAL OF CHIEF ZYMIC DISASTERS 20.

This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of .87 per 1000. Last year it was 2.1 per 1000. This year there is only one Death from Whooping Cough & Measles respectively against 13 & 29 last year...

THE VARIOUS CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.	Males...Females.
Enteric Fever.	2. I.
Measles.	I.
Whooping Cough.	I.
Diphtheria & Croup.	I.
Influenza.	35. 34.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	I4. I2.
Tuberculous Meningitis.	I. 4.
Other Tuberculous Diseases.	4. 4.
Cancer, Malignant Disease.	8. I2.
Meningitis.	2. I.
Organic Heart Disease.	10. I2.
Bronchitis.	20. I2.
Pneumonia. (All forms).	22. 27.
Other Respiratory Diseases.	2. 3.
Diarrhoea. (Under 2 years)	7. 7.
Appendicitis & Typhlitis.	2.
Nephritis & Bright's Disease.	5. 8.
Parturition, (apart from puerperal Fever)	I.
Congenital Debility &c.	I8. 7.
Violence, (apart from Suicide).	I4. 2.
Suicide.	I.
Other defined Diseases.	34. 30.
	201. 180.

INFLUENZA.

By June. 28th. the Epidemic of Influenza became so severe in Castleford & the surroundings Districts that I asked the Education Authority as a precautionary measure to exclude from School all Children residing in a house where there was a case of this Disease, this was carried out, but by July. 5th. the Disease was so prevalent that it was necessary to advise the closure of the following Schools (all Departments) for one week viz:- (1). Pontefract Road, (2). Wheldon Road, (3). Temple Street, (4). Welbeck Street, (5). Church Street, Council Schools & on July. 9th. St. Joseph's Elementary School also until July. 15th. On July. 13th. a further closure of all the above was necessary for a further period of two weeks. After this time the Disease had so abated that it was considered safe to again open the Schools. Up to this date we had only had three Deaths reported viz:- one in January, one in May & one in July. During the time of closure the Schools were all cleaned & Disinfected under the supervision of our Sanitary Inspector.

On the 3rd. of October another outbreak of Influenza had come suddenly upon us & was spreading rapidly so that all the Schools were again closed until October. 19th. then there being no improvement a further closure was ordered until November 2nd. & then extended until November. 16th... On November 2nd. the Castleford Secondary School was closed at my suggestion for two weeks. Again during the closure all Schools were disinfected & cleaned under the supervision of our Sanitary Inspector ALSO THE FOLLOWING TWO HANDBILLS WERE DISTRIBUTED.

Castleford Urban District Council.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

The attention of the General Public is called to the following simple precautions, the observance of which will tend to limit the spread of infection.

GENERAL MEASURES.

CROWDING, whether in dwellings or in ill-ventilated places of public entertainment or assembly, should be avoided.

Ventilation of all living rooms, sleeping rooms, & work rooms is of the utmost importance. This implies the need for sufficient warm clothing & especially for children & old people.

Dirtiness, whether of the person or of dwellings or workrooms & also dusty conditions favour infection. Wet cleansing is important.

Spitting in Public Places, trams &c, is always dangerous. It is especially dangerous during the prevalence of Influenza.

Alcoholism favours infection & complication by Pneumonia is especially fatal amongst those who drink to excess.

Gargling the throat with an antiseptic solution night & morning is to be recommended.

(7).

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC. GENERAL MEASURES (Continued).
MEASURES CONCERNING PATIENTS.

Any person suffering from a feverish condition should not hesitate to stay at home for a few days & go to bed. It is advisable to obtain Medical treatment.

A handkerchief should always be used in sneezing or coughing so as to avoid scattering infection. Boil the handkerchief.

Expectoration should be received into a suitable receptacle and disinfected & thrown into the Drains or burnt.

Influenza is very liable to relapse & Pneumonia may occur.

The patient should remain in bed till all Fever has gone & during convalescence avoid chill or overexertion.

Good nursing is a most important aid to recovery.

After the termination of a case of Influenza, the Patient's room bedding & clothing should be thoroughly cleansed. Disinfectant may be obtained on application to the Sanitary Inspector at the Town Hall.

EVERY PERSON SUFFERING FROM INFLUENZA should remember that he is a likely source of infection to others with the possibility of fatal results. (Signed) William Kemp Medical Officer of Health.

The Sunday Schools & our Welfare Centres were also closed. The Cinematograph Theatres were closed against children up to 14 years old. & these Houses & the other Theatres in the Town were ventilated & sprayed during the intervals of 30 Minutes between each performance. The precautions were taken before the Government Order was issued to us.

This last Epidemic was of a most severe type causing 59 Deaths viz: 42 in October, 13 in November & 4 in December giving an Annual Death Rate of 2.6 per 1000. All but three of the 59 Deaths were complicated with Pneumonia.

Area of District in Acres.. 564. Land & Inland Water.

Number of Houses 4763.

List of Local Government Board Orders for 1918 concerning Public Health:-

1. The Public Health (Notification of Infectious Disease) Regulations 1918 Circulars & General Orders.

2. The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1918 Circulars & General Order.

3. The Maternity & Child Welfare Act 1918 also Circular on Maternity & Child Welfare.

4. The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations (No.2). 1918.

5. The Public Health (Influenza) regulations 1918.

6. Do. (No.2).

7. The Public Health (Acute Encephalitis Lethargica & Acute Polio-Encephalitis) Regulations. 1918.

8. Memorandum on Epidemic Influenza. November. 3rd. 1918.

9. Circular on Epidemic Catarrhs & Influenza. November. 4th. 1918.

10. Midwives Act. 1918.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 131 Cases notified during the year viz:-

Scarlet Fever.	18.
Diphtheria.	6.
Enteric Fever.	6.
Erysipelas.	4.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	39.
Other Forms of Do.	9.
Membranous Croup.	1.
Measles.	46. TOTAL. 131.

In conclusion I should draw your attention to the onerous duties your very able Sanitary Inspector has to undertake & to state that in my opinion he should have adequate assistance so as to enable him to cope properly with the great amount of work that is before him.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours Faithfully,

(Signed). W.KEMP.

May. 26th. 1919.

